

the Welsh and the Irish afford us reason for believing that these Mediterranean peoples extended up the west of Europe to the British Isles. But here the admixture of northern or Baltic blood was larger; indeed it appears that in England at the time of the Norman Conquest the dark complexioned inhabitants had been displaced very extensively. Indeed by Danes and Saxons. With us then the conflict between the people and the aristocracy (which has recently eventuated in the withdrawal of the veto from the House of Lords) has not been of so racial a character or so bitter as for instance in France. The nobles and the people have been in great measure blood relations. and the classes who were conquered have not been insulted by the physical contempt which would have denied them the right of intermarriage with the aristocracy. The enfranchisement of the masses has accordingly come about through gradual and peaceful stages. In France it was obtained by an outpouring of the hate of a rancorous helotage. The subject populations of Wales and Ireland have been unable to accomplish so drastic a revolution. But they have nevertheless been enfranchised and have naturally turned their votes to abate the pretensions of their alien conquerors.

We must not, however, figure the advance of democracy as the spreading of a slow, resistless flood. When a people has become accustomed to

subjection; they accept their chains as the bonds of habit, and will not rise to throw them off unless they are encouraged by a popular leader. They have become used to tyranny. They take no interest in State affairs, and, if gross injustice arouses them to spasmodic rioting, they are easily quieted by disciplined forces. Leaders of energy and intelligence are required, and they have very